

**METHODS FOR TREATING AUTOIMMUNE DISEASES IN A SUBJECT AND  
*IN VITRO* DIAGNOSTIC ASSAYS**

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

5 The invention provides a method for treating an autoimmune disease in a subject  
by administering an interferon antagonist and a Flt3 ligand (Flt3L) antagonist. The  
invention also provides compositions containing one or more interferon antagonists, and  
one or more Flt3L antagonists, an *in vitro* assay for determining a subject's risk for  
developing an autoimmune disease, and kits for use, *inter alia*, with the assay.